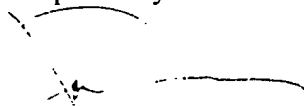Nathan F. Raciborski et al.
Application No.: 09/664,147
Page 4

PATENT

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 15 has been amended as follows:

With reference to Fig. 4A, a block diagram of an embodiment of a content exchange portion 116 of the content distribution system 100 is shown. The content exchange 116 caches content objects requested by client computers 112 under the control of the content manager 312. Included in the content exchange 116 are a tracking system 402, and a content node 406. The tracking system includes a content tracker 404, a health check 426 428, status information 420, a local content catalog 416, and an origin server database 424 while the content node 406 includes a content controller 408 and a content store 412.

Paragraph beginning at line 29 of page 15, has been amended as follows:

The health check 426 428 can be either a hardware or software application which provides operational characteristics of an associated content exchange 116. In an embodiment, the health check 426 428 provides a single indication of content exchange 116 status. The single indication may be a normalized value between zero and one indicating a combination of content exchange characteristics including, for example, a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests a content exchange is facilitating. In an alternate embodiment, the health check 426 428 could monitor characteristics of a content exchange 116 while running on another content exchange 116, origin server 108 or location.

Paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 29 has been amended as follows:

The aforementioned heuristics can be determined using the health check 330, 426 428 associated with a particular content exchange 116 or origin server 108. In an embodiment, health check 330, 426 428 are software applications running on a content exchange 116 and origin server 108 respectively. When queried by the viewer object proxy 504, the health check 330, 426 428 may provide a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a

number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests the content exchange 116 or

origin server 108 is currently servicing. In some embodiments, viewer object proxy 504

queries the content object exchange 116 via HTTP to retrieve server health check

heuristics. It should be noted, however, that one skilled in the art would recognize many

mechanisms for accessing server health heuristics including, but not limited to, FTP,

NNTP, RTP, RTSP, SHOUT, SMTP, or connecting to the node through a designated

port.

Paragraph beginning at line 33 of page 29 has been amended as follows:

In other embodiments, a request for status by the viewer object proxy 504

to the health check 330, 426 ~~428~~ results in a single status indicia being returned. The

single status indicia is between one and zero with one indicating poor characteristics and

zero indicating good characteristics. Good and poor characteristics are determined based

on the ability or capability for a content exchange 116 or other transfer node to act as a

content object cache. Thus, in an embodiment, an indicia of 0.9 indicates an inability to

maintain a content object local to a content exchange 116 for an extended time.

Alternatively, an indicia of 0.2 indicates an ability to maintain a content object for an

extended time.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Figure 4A is attached hereto.